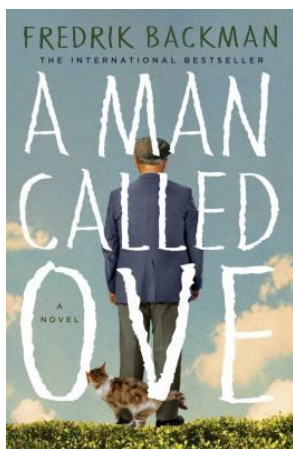


# Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

April 27, 2015

## Biography:



Fredrik Backman, Swedish author, journalist, and blogger, was voted Sweden's most successful author in 2013. He started writing for the free newspaper, *Xtra*, in 2006. In spring 2007, he began writing for *Moore Magazine*, and in 2012 he became a writer for the *Metro*. Backman has also blogged about his wedding preparations in "The Wedding Blog" and about becoming a father on "Someone's Dad" blog. During the 2010 Winter Olympics, he wrote the Olympic blog for the *Magazine Cafe* website and has continued as a permanent blogger for the site. In 2012, Backman debuted as an author, publishing two books on the same day: a novel, *A Man Called Ove* (US release in 2014), and a work of nonfiction, *Things My Son Needs to Know About the World*. His second novel, *My Grandmother Sent Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, came out in 2013 and will be released in the US in 2015. (*Adapted from Wikipedia and the publisher. Retrieved 3/23/2015.*)

## Similar Resources:



## Discussion Questions:

1. How does the opening scene, in which Ove attempts to purchase a computer, succinctly express the main points of Ove's ongoing battle with the stupidities of the modern world?
2. Ove loves things that have a purpose, that are useful. How does this worldview fail him when he believes himself to be useless? How is he convinced that he can still be useful?
3. As readers, we get to know Ove slowly, with his past only being revealed piece by piece. What surprised you about Ove's past? Why do you think the author revealed Ove's past the way that he did?
4. We all know our own grumpy old men. How do Ove's core values lead him to appear as such a cranky old coot, when he is in fact nothing of the sort?
5. Ove is a believer in the value of routine—how can following a routine be both comforting and stultifying?
6. How does the eclectic cast of posers, suits, deadbeats, and teens each help Ove in their own way? Which of the supporting cast (Parvaneh, Jimmy, the Lanky One, Anita) did you find yourself identifying with most?
7. On Ove and Sonja's trip to Spain, Ove spends his time helping the locals and fixing things. How does Ove the "hero" compare and contrast to his behavior in the rest of the book? Is that Ove's true personality?
8. Ove and Sonja's love story is one of the most affecting, tender parts of the book. What is the key to their romance? Why do they fit so well together?  
(*Questions issued by the publisher.*)